

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, at 3:00 PM in the Giles County Administration Building located at 315 N. Main Street, Pearisburg, the following members were present unless noted absent.

Jeff Morris	Chair (Central District)
Richard McCoy	Vice-Chair (At-Large Supervisor)
Perry Martin	Eastern District
John C. Lawson, Jr.	Western District
Paul "Chappy" Baker	At-Large Supervisor
Chris McKlarney	County Administrator
Catherine Ballard	Finance Director
John Ross	Building Official
Richard Chidester	County Attorney
Missy Bray	Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

Mr. Morris called the meeting to order, and Mr. McKlarney offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve the May 19, 2022, minutes as presented. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

VDOT REPORT

Mr. Chris Price updated members on road maintenance in the county. He noted potholes patched on Route 460 and secondaries such as Lurich, Clover Hollow and Spruce Run. Mr. Price reported shoulder work on Route 460, various flooding work done due to recent rain, and a pipe replaced on Conley Hollow Road. He related mowing done on the river roads prior to Memorial Day weekend, adding mowing would start the around the county the following week. Mr. Price indicated the paving schedule will kick off in the next week or two, and the tree cutters had cut more than 165 trees on Route 42 to Bland. He noted paving would be completed on Penvir Road within the next few weeks, and Skyview looks good as well. He reported VDOT is still looking to determine an alternate access route on Patterson Ford Road, adding the first option did not work out.

Mr. Baker reported continued pot holes on Route 635 due to heavy truck use and requested drainage work at the Albert residence on Penvir Road. He also reported reduced visibility of signs due to brush. Ms. Dawn Brown related that Robertson Mountain Road to East River Road had been graded and stone applied, but the recent heavy rain had washed it back out. She indicated debris has clogged up the drainage pipes. Mr. Lawson indicated the Narrows end of Shute Hollow Road is in terrible condition with pavement coming up in several places. He reported two spots for patching on Cumberland Street as well as the need for mowing and brush cutting.

Mr. Martin requested an update on Winding Way. Mr. Price indicated that VDOT has worked with the property owner, and he thinks it is almost complete. Mr. Martin related someone had come from the public to report a section of Spruce Run that was not paved during the last paving schedule, which has many potholes. Mr. Price stated he had seen Spruce Run on a list, and it might be next year if it is not listed on this year's. He related some VDOT paving schedule changes, noting VDOT is making a push on paving as compared to surface treatment, and it will be better off in the next 15 to 20 years. Mr. Martin requested shoulder work on Eggleston Road and reported another accident at the intersection of Cascade Drive and Route 460. He stated there needed to be a consensus with the Town of Pembroke and inquired about Smart Scale funding. Mr. McKlarney advised Smart Scale is on a two-year funding cycle. Mr. Price related the criteria is a cost to benefits ratio, adding he thought it would be a good project to submit. He suggested the possibility of submitting multiple applications for aspects of the project. Mr. Morris inquired about the tree cutting crew. Mr. Price advised the crew is still working and will try to hit all the trees reported as well as others. He indicated they have several contracts, and the ash trees will be an ongoing issue.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Terry Arbogast updated the board on current enrollments. He stated there are currently 2,175 students, which a decrease of 4 from the previous month. He related the last day of school would be on the following Friday, and provided information on planned summer activities such as summer school and STEM camp.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Dawn Brown – Ms. Brown presented points she considered issues with the recently passed Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance. She provided information on the tax rates from towns within the county as well as some other jurisdictions. Ms. Brown indicated the tax hurts small businesses within the county and noted how Airbnb does not collect the tax as required, which she related would fall on the property owners. She stated she had spoken with delegates, the Commissioner of the Revenue, the County Administrator and Mr. Lawson regarding this issue. Mr. McKlarney advised the Commissioner has not assessed any of the rentals to enforce fines, and she is working to try to get the issue resolved. Mr. Morris stated members would look into it further. Ms. Brown stated she understands the need for taxes, but it should not be on the back of tourism. She also noted that the Commissioner receives the taxes in a lump sum and cannot see which rentals the money is related to. Mr. McKlarney advised the county uses a secondary software to track the rentals.

NEW BUSINESS

PEARISBURG STREET CLOSURE – FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

Mr. McKlarney presented a request from the Town of Pearisburg for street closure during the upcoming Festival in the Park.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the street closure request as presented. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

FY 2023 BUDGET

Mr. McKlarney indicated state numbers for budget have not been received, but he requested members schedule a budget work session in the near future. Members discussed dates and times and concurred to hold a budget work session on June 9, 2022, beginning at 3:00 PM.

SET PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Lawson made a motion to hold a public hearing at the June recess meeting for an increase of school allocations in the FY 2022 budget for STRIDE funding. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$814,781.08, and Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Lawson motioned to reappoint Mr. Richard McCoy to the New River Valley Criminal Justice Training Academy, and Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Morris; Abstaining: Mr. McCoy

BUDGET INFORMATION

Mr. Lawson inquired if a budget request had been received from the Sheriff's Office. Mr. McKlarney indicated it had and provided information to members on the requests by the Sheriff's Office and proposed school salary increases. Ms. Ballard provided a FY 2023 preliminary draft budget for members to review.

BROADBAND

Mr. Martin inquired about the status of the broadband RFP. Mr. McKlarney related the RFP has been posted, and responses are due on June 10th.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next work session of the Board of Supervisors will be held on June 9, 2022 at 3:00 PM, and the next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Giles County Administration Office located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg.

APPROVED:

Chair**ATTEST:**

Clerk